



USAID
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PAKISTAN

Gender Equality

February 2014



Photo: USAID/Pakistan

Empowering women to participate in the economy is smart economics. USAID Pakistan is supporting 26000 female embellishers by providing them sustainable source of income through its Entrepreneurs project.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- More than 70,000 women micro entrepreneurs from Punjab and Sindh received basic financial literacy and enterprise management training which increased their yearly income by \$155.
- Increased incomes of 20,000 Balochi women agriculture workers.
- 475,000 women registered for Computerized National Identity Cards and received voter education training.
- 367 higher education scholarships awarded to academically talented, financially needy women
- Rehabilitation of over 75 girls' schools, many of them affected by violent attacks in FATA and KP

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

USAID integrates gender equality and women's empowerment into all of its programming in Pakistan to increase opportunities for women's participation in the labor force, expand girls' access to quality basic education, improve maternal and child health, and promote women's rights in political, economic, and social realms. In the planning stage of all new projects, USAID/Pakistan conducts a gender analysis to identify opportunities to engage with women. To increase female empowerment and participation, USAID also implements specific rights-based interventions to reduce gender-based discrimination and violence. In FY 2012, more than \$100 million was attributed to actively reduce the gap between men and women and in FY 2013 \$79 million was spent on gender equality initiatives.

BACKGROUND

Full inclusion of men and women is imperative for growth and stability. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2013, Pakistan ranks 135 out of 136 countries worldwide. The primary issues that contribute to this level of inequality are gender-based violence, access to education and health services, and lack of mobility. Pakistan's maternal mortality rate is one of the highest in the world: 276 deaths per 100,000 births. Pakistani girls on average receive less than six years of schooling and only 53% of girls complete primary school, compared with 70% of boys. In 2007, the literacy rate among women aged 15 and older was only 39.6% whereas among Pakistani men it was 67.7%. While women's legal standing in Pakistan has improved in recent years, enforcement has lagged behind, and limited access to justice means most incidents are never reported. USAID is working to narrow the gap between men and women to promote a prosperous, stable society.

KEY PROJECTS

IMPROVED ACCESS TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

USAID works to increase women's incomes, develop their skills, and provide women with entrepreneurial opportunities, including access to financial resources, while encouraging employers to incorporate women into the work force. The **Entrepreneurs Project** supports women-owned small businesses and works to improve production and expand their opportunities to link with profitable markets. Seamstresses and women from the dairy, medicinal and aromatic plant industries receive training in financial literacy and enterprise management. USAID's **Dairy Project** seeks to enhance income and employment generation for rural women through livestock skills development, which ultimately improves their livelihoods and food security by training women on dairy farm management techniques, establishment of dairy farms, and milk collection. USAID is also working to encourage more women to work in energy distribution and generation companies by making them more family-friendly. The **Power Distribution Program** has organized daycare facilities, giving mothers the opportunity to work.

SUPPORTING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

USAID aims to improve access and quality of healthcare for mothers and children, focusing on safeguarding mother's and children's health; supporting family planning and the healthy timing and spacing of births; and strengthening provincial health care systems. The **Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program** seeks to improve the quality and availability of key services related to family planning, reproductive health, and Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health (MNCH) in Pakistan's newly decentralized health sector. Since its initiation (in October 2012), the MCH program has provided family planning commodities for 6.8 million clients. Additionally, the MCH Program has upgraded 92 MNCH Centers to ensure that 750,000 women in the corresponding catchment areas have access to high quality reproductive health care. The program also promotes



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Gender Equality (continued)



Photo: USAID/Pakistan

USAID through its Pakistan Reading Project will boost the reading skills of 3.2 million Pakistani children with special focus on girls education.



Photo: USAID/Pakistan

USAID's Dairy project helps its trained Women Livestock Extension Workers (WLEW) become self-employed entrepreneurs extending their newly learnt skills to farmers in need of extension services at their doorstep.



Photo: USAID/Pakistan

Through the GEP program USAID supports initiatives by local organizations that work to expand women's access to justice, knowledge of women's rights and opportunities for women to exercise their rights. Nearly half of the resources are devoted to ending gender-based violence.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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health-seeking behaviors through approximately 2,500 support group meetings **every quarter** which reach 13,000 women and 9,000 men, strengthens community midwifery, and increases birth attendance by skilled health-care workers in remote rural districts.

INCREASING GIRLS' ACCESS TO EDUCATION

To ensure more girls have the opportunity to pursue education, the **Sindh Basic Education Program** and **Improving Education Quality Project** are working to mobilize communities to increase girls' enrollment in school and train female teachers, which encourages families to send their girls to school. USAID is also rehabilitating girls' schools in FATA and KP that were damaged in conflict and natural disasters. In support of higher education, USAID provides scholarships to women through the **Merit and Need Based Scholarship (MNSB)** Program and the **Fulbright Program**. MNSB awards scholarships to academically talented, financially needy Pakistani students and beginning in 2013, 50% of all scholarships awarded will go to girls.

COMBATting GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

USAID seeks to combat gender-based violence (GBV) in Pakistan through its **Gender Equity Program (GEP)**, which provides grants to local civil society organizations. GEP developed a strategy to combat GBV, which aims to create an environment for rehabilitation and self-fulfillment for survivors. Key in this process are training police and judicial officers to better handle GBV complaints, and strengthening public and private women's shelters. The program is also working on strengthening sixteen helplines for crisis management, providing legal services, psychological and social counseling, and vocational training to survivors.

INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Through the Gender Equity Program, USAID has provided grants to help women register for Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs), which gives them access to services and allows them to vote. In addition, USAID's **Political Parties Development Project** helps Pakistan's political parties more effectively develop policies that respond to constituent and grassroots concerns and seeks to promote greater participation of women, particularly within leadership bodies. This project encourages parties to have women make up at least 50 percent of the working groups, research units, and training fellowships. This exposure will give women the opportunity to enhance their skills, advocate their positions, and advance within their respective parties.